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October 16, 1903 1794

CHINA.

Report from Hongkong—Cholera in Shanghai and Amoy.

Passed Assistant Surgeon McMullin reports, September 3, 1903, as follows: Week ended August 29, 1903. Eight vessels, with 566 crew and 320 passengers (158 cabin and 162 steerage), were inspected and granted bills of health; 418 crew and 162 steerage passengers were bathed and 567 pieces of baggage disinfected. Only 3 fatal cases of plague were reported (Chinese), and 1 of cholera, for the week. Acting Assistant Surgeon Ransom reports that cholera has again appeared in Shanghai and that while it is not now epidemic it will probably increase, and several cases have occurred on board ships in the harbor. Cholera at Amoy is apparently decreasing, judging from the bills of health from that port. The case of cholera reported here for last week occurred in one of the adjacent districts and not in the city of Victoria, making a total of 8 cases reported since January 1. The first case of cholera this year occurred in May.

Report from Shanghai—Cholera present—Precautions taken to prevent spread.

Shanghai, China, August 31, 1903.

Sir: I have the honor to forward herewith abstract of bills of health issued at this station during the week ended August 29, 1903. There were inspected during the week 5 vessels, 398 crew, 43 cabin and 145 steerage passengers. The quarters of the native crew of one vessel were disinfected with sulphur gas, and 83 men were bathed and their clothing disinfected. Two men were rejected on account of temperature. The number of pieces of freight viséd was 51,072.

The report of the municipal health officer for the week shows: Cholera, 1 case, 9 deaths; enteric fever, 1 case; dengue fever, 6 cases.

Total mortality, 4 foreigners and 296 natives.

The mortality among the natives has practically doubled in the last two weeks, and as cholera is present I have no doubt that a good deal of the increase is due to that disease, notwithstanding the fact that but few cases and deaths are officially reported. I have therefore imposed all the restrictions which were in force here last year, and inclose for the information of the Bureau a copy of the instructions issued to the various shipping firms, etc., in Shanghai.

I also inclose a copy of my letter relative to the visé of shipping orders, etc., to the quarantine officers at Manila, Honolulu, and such places in the United States as I thought particularly interested, for

their information.

Respectfully,

S. A. Ransom, Acting Assistant Surgeon.

The Surgeon-General.

[Inclosures.]

Shanghai, China, August 17, 1903.

Gentlemen: Owing to the presence of cholera in Shanghai, I have to request that you notify the masters of the various vessels in which